SEKINE'S LOVE

VOLUME 5, CH.28-30

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CH.28 ONCE MORE

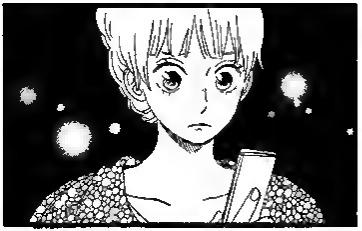
Waiting for his second turn.
Did I bring a flip phone with me today?
!!
FLIP
BZZ...
This has been going off for quite a while now.
BZZ...
BZZ...
Umm
Please don't...
...touch my things...
BZZ...
Oh.
Sorry.
Oh?
BZZ...

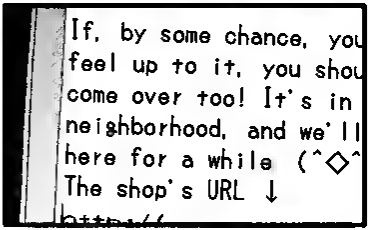
CLUNK
Excuse me.
Aww, but the PERFUME medley's coming next!
...
This is mine.
...?!!
PHONE CALL? UH-OH, THEY HUNG UP.
Don't use the mic to talk

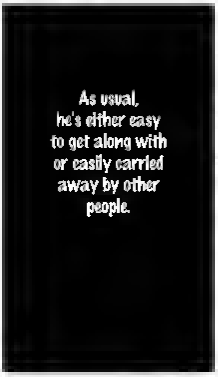
...this photo I'm gonna send Sara
I'm going to edit the hell out of..
Cropping out the part with the girl

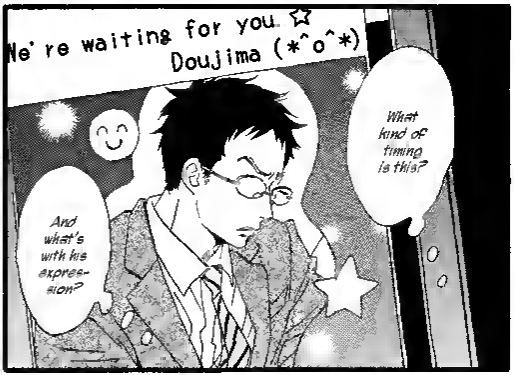
They're way too easy to read.
INCOMING
SARA KISARAGI
VR
VR
VR
Pfft!

SENDING...
"Can you believe it's Sekine-san? He came to karaoke."
I'm such a nice guy
tick tick



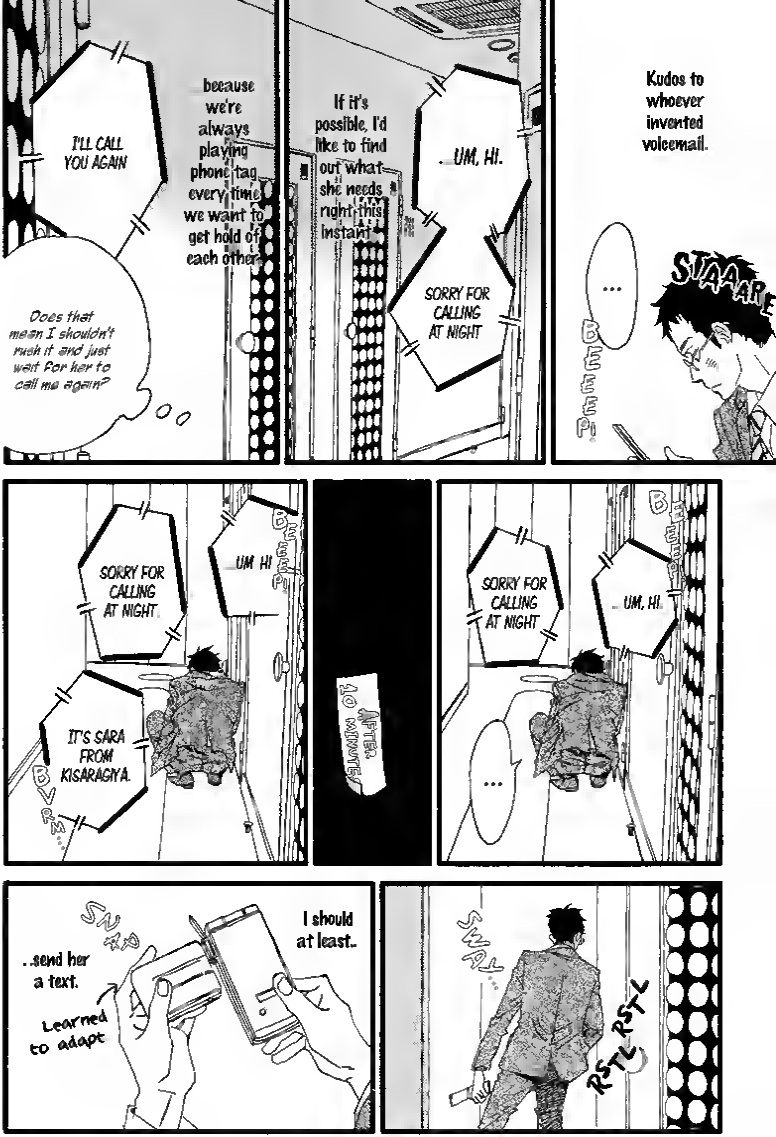

If, by some chance, you feel up to it, you shou come over too! It's in neighborhood, and we'll here for a while (^◇^
The shop's URL ↓


As usual, he's either easy to get along with or easily carried away by other people.

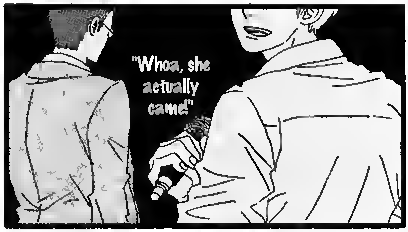

We're waiting for you. ☆
Doujima (*^o^*)
What kind of timing is this?
And what's with his expression?

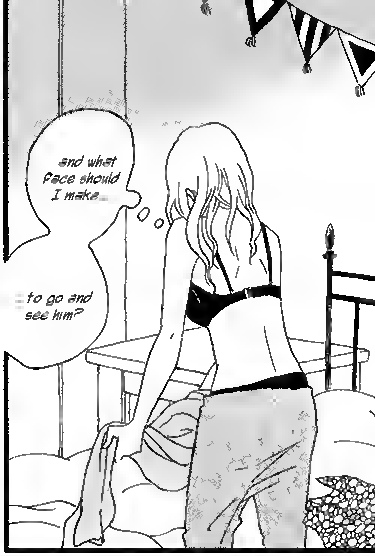
It's like I'm worried about him, and I can't seem to ignore him...
But he didn't even pick up the phone
Haah...
Why is the blood rising up to my head over this?
BEEPING
YOU HAVE ONE MESSAGE IN YOUR VOICEMAIL BOX.

...UM, HI.
SORRY FOR CALLING AT NIGHT.
IT'S SARA FROM KISARAGIYA.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.
BEEP
TO ERASE THIS MESSAGE, PLEASE PRESS NUMBER...
TO REPEAT THE CALL...
BEEP
...UM, HI.
SORRY FOR CALLING AT NIGHT.
IT'S SARA FROM KISARAGIYA.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN
BEEP

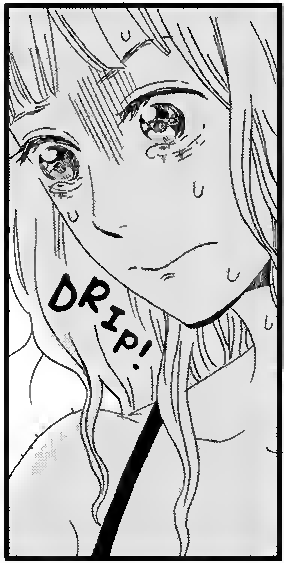

I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN
because we're always playing phone tag every time we want to get hold of each other.
Does that mean I shouldn't rush it and just wait for her to call me again?
If it's possible, I'd like to find out what she needs right this instant.
..UM, HI.
SORRY FOR CALLING AT NIGHT
Kudos to whoever invented voicemail.
...
BEEEP.
STAAARE
SORRY FOR CALLING AT NIGHT
UM HI
BEEP.
IT'S SARA FROM KISARAGIYA.
BY R.S.
10 AFTER MINUTES
SORRY FOR CALLING AT NIGHT
..UM, HI.
BEEP.
...
..send her a text.
SNAP
Learned to adapt
I should at least..
SWAY
RSTL RSTL

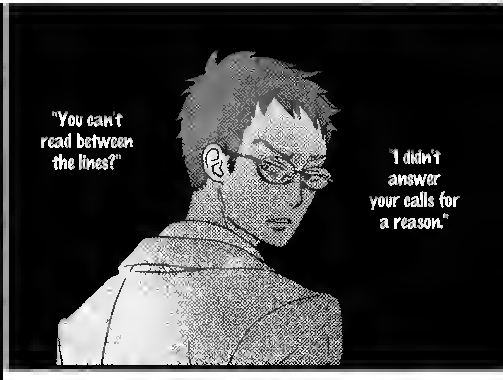
See? I won. All of you, fork over your 400 yen!
Toldja this guy's not the type to walk out and leave without telling us.
Which one of you bozos said he was trying to evade responsibility?
That was you, Doujima-san.
She's drunker than she was a while ago
THUD!
Found you!
Ahh!
Sekine-saaan!
Clover
What should I wear
What matters is you have to sing YAPOOS with me
That's because missing out on my rendition of Matchy will be a huge loss that will affect his entire life
...
JA B!

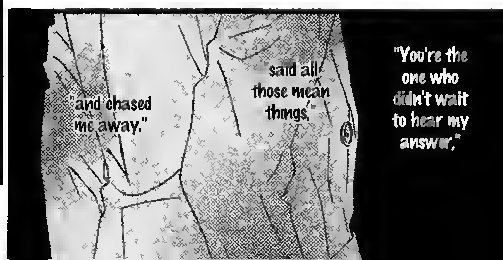

"Whoa, she actually came!"


and what face should I make...
...to go and see him?

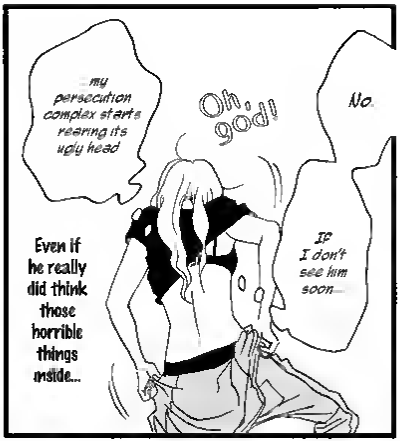
"Too late to come crawling back now."


DRIP!


"You can't read between the lines?"
"I didn't answer your calls for a reason."

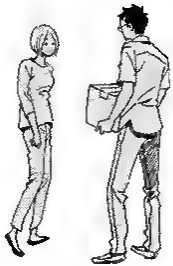

"You're the one who didn't wait to hear my answer."
said all those mean things.
and chased me away."

.. he would never say anything to hurt the other person or to directly criticize them.



Even if he really did think those horrible things inside...

...who, for the longest time, didn't realize his feelings for his first love.



is always stylish,

brought Kotarota to existence,

and someone..

pays for admission to become a pupil in a suspicious handicrafts store,

He's the type of person who helps out with the rubberband target practice booth at our neighborhood bazaar,

They're gathering to battle with monster cards.
The kids don't seem to notice us.
He really seems like he doesn't have many friends...

"If they want to break up, we break up—"
"If they say they want to date me, we date."
"Something along those lines."

"How have you been dating women all along?"

So that was why he always settled.
At the beginning he couldn't have what he wanted...
What about with me?
Am I just conveniently here for him when he's been out of a relationship for a while?

Then
It wouldn't matter who, anyone would do

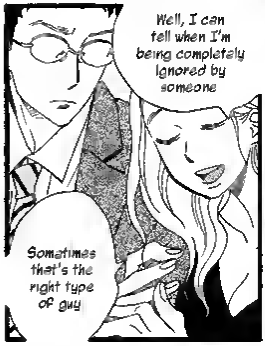
...honestly..
...had me so overwhelmed.
Just being even slightly touched by someone...
For sure
KARAOKE
Which one of you is out of a drink?
Me!
I'll order them together, so tell me what you want
A bottle?
Time's up For me
Awww!
Seri-ously?
Sorry, but
I still haven't thought of what I want to text her about
Ooh, sounds good!
Water with... a shot of something we haven't tried
You want to do a chaser too?
Uh...

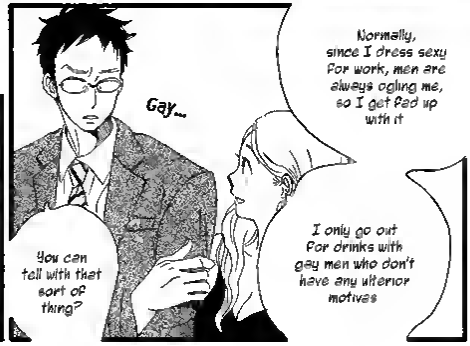
so you are to come straight back and not let him take you home
Yeah, yeah
Your mission is to dance to KINKI KIDS with me,
I won't

I'm going to beat everyone to it and see him out the exit
Got it
If this doesn't cover everything, then ask me for the money later

At least let me have a date with you for a few meters
... you shouldn't hang out here with strangers you've just met
We're on the same boat here, but ...
I choose my partners well

I'll be fine here
Now, now


Well, I can tell when I'm being completely ignored by someone
Sometimes that's the right type of guy


Gay...
You can tell with that sort of thing?
Normally, since I dress sexy for work, men are always ogling me, so I get fed up with it
I only go out for drinks with gay men who don't have any ulterior motives

It's fun having a drink with good-looking men, but
I only fall in love with ones who have breasts
So that's how it works?
Hmm
Well, in my case
Me?
The other person?
?
Ha ha!
Haha haha
Well, it doesn't matter
A trans?
...?
I thought maybe you already had someone else in mind
Do I look like I am?
You aren't?
In my case, I've been
KARAOKE
Sekine-san, you're married, aren't you?

Someone who's left me feeling stuck...
...who for a very long time won't even look at me
After someone...

Like you can't give up?
I suppose...
GULP!
Sorry, Sara-chan!
What the hell am I doing, baring my heart to this woman who I barely met a few hours ago, one I will never see again, and who...
..may or may not be a transvestite?
It's OK
Oh, good! Caught up to Sakine-san in time too.
I just barely noticed your text